

PRODUCT MONOGRAPH

^{Pr}DECAPEPTYL®

Triptorelin Acetate Injection

0.1 mg/mL

Luteinizing Hormone-Releasing Hormone (LHRH) Analog

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Date of Preparation:
July 4, 2012

Submission Control No: 143106

Table of Contents

PART I: HEALTH PROFESSIONAL INFORMATION.....3
SUMMARY PRODUCT INFORMATION3
INDICATIONS AND CLINICAL USE.....3
CONTRAINDICATIONS4
WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS.....4
ADVERSE REACTIONS.....8
DRUG INTERACTIONS11
DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION11
OVERDOSAGE13
ACTION AND CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY13
STORAGE AND STABILITY.....15
SPECIAL HANDLING INSTRUCTIONS15
DOSAGE FORMS, COMPOSITION AND PACKAGING15

PART II: SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION16
PHARMACEUTICAL INFORMATION.....16
CLINICAL TRIALS.....17
DETAILED PHARMACOLOGY19
TOXICOLOGY20
REFERENCES23

PART III: CONSUMER INFORMATION.....25

Pr DECAPEPTYL®
Triptorelin Acetate Injection 0.1 mg/mL

PART I: HEALTH PROFESSIONAL INFORMATION

SUMMARY PRODUCT INFORMATION

Route of Administration	Dosage Form / Strength	Clinically Relevant Nonmedicinal Ingredients
Subcutaneous Injection	Solution for Injection 0.1 mg/mL	Sodium Chloride Glacial Acetic Acid Water for Injection

INDICATIONS AND CLINICAL USE

DECAPEPTYL® is indicated for:

- downregulation and prevention of premature luteinizing hormone (LH) surges in women undergoing controlled ovarian hyperstimulation for assisted reproductive technologies (ART).

In clinical trials DECAPEPTYL 0.1 mg/mL has been used in cycles where urinary and recombinant human follicle stimulating hormone (FSH) as well as human menopausal gonadotrophin (HMG) were used for stimulation.

DECAPEPTYL should be initiated under the supervision of a physician experienced in the treatment of infertility.

DECAPEPTYL is not indicated during pregnancy.

CONTRAINDICATIONS

DECAPEPTYL is contraindicated in cases of

- Hypersensitivity to the active substance or to any of the excipients
- Hypersensitivity to gonadotrophin-releasing hormone (GnRH) or any other GnRH analogue
- Pregnancy and lactation period

WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS

General

Before initiating treatment with DECAPEPTYL, pregnancy must be ruled out (see Special Population-Pregnant Women)

When triptorelin is co-administered with drugs affecting pituitary secretion of gonadotrophins caution should be given and the patient's hormonal status should be supervised.

No specific dose recommendations are given for subjects with renal or hepatic impairment. A clinical study indicated that the risk of accumulation of triptorelin in patients with severe hepatic or renal impairment is small. In patients with renal or hepatic impairment, triptorelin has a mean terminal half life of 7- 8 hours compared to 3-5 hours in healthy subjects. Despite this prolonged exposure, triptorelin is not expected to be present in circulation at the time of embryo transfer.

ART is associated with an increased risk of multiple pregnancies, pregnancy wastage, ectopic pregnancies and congenital malformations. These risks are also valid with usage of DECAPEPTYL 0.1 mg/1 mL as adjunct therapy in controlled ovarian hyperstimulation. The use of DECAPEPTYL in controlled ovarian hyperstimulation may increase the risk of ovarian hyperstimulation syndrome (OHSS) and ovarian cysts.

Follicular recruitment, induced by the use of GnRH analogues and gonadotrophins, may be markedly increased in a minority of predisposed patients, particularly in case of Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome.

As with other GnRH analogues, there have been reports of ovarian hyperstimulation syndrome (OHSS) associated with the use of triptorelin in combination with gonadotrophins.

Ovarian stimulation should be done under strict medical supervision.

Ovarian Hyperstimulation Syndrome (OHSS)

OHSS is a medical event distinct from uncomplicated ovarian enlargement. OHSS is a syndrome that can manifest itself with increasing degrees of severity. It comprises marked ovarian enlargement, high serum sex steroids, and an increase in vascular permeability which can result in an accumulation of fluid in the peritoneal, pleural and, rarely, in the pericardial cavities.

The following symptoms may be observed in severe cases of OHSS: abdominal pain, abdominal distension, severe ovarian enlargement, weight gain, dyspnoea, oliguria and gastrointestinal symptoms including nausea, vomiting and diarrhoea. Clinical evaluation may reveal hypovolaemia, haemoconcentration, electrolyte imbalances, ascites, haemoperitoneum, pleural effusions, hydrothorax, acute pulmonary distress, and thromboembolic events.

Excessive ovarian response to gonadotrophin treatment seldom gives rise to OHSS unless hCG is administered to trigger ovulation. Therefore, in cases of OHSS it is prudent to withhold hCG and advise the patient to refrain from coitus or to use barrier methods for at least 4 days. OHSS may progress rapidly (within 24 hours to several days) to become a serious medical event, therefore patients should be followed for at least two weeks after the hCG administration.

OHSS may be more severe and more protracted if pregnancy occurs. Most often, OHSS occurs after hormonal treatment has been discontinued and reaches its maximum severity at about seven to ten days following treatment. Usually, OHSS resolves spontaneously with the onset of menses. If severe OHSS occurs, gonadotrophin treatment should be stopped if still ongoing, the patient hospitalized and specific therapy for OHSS started e.g. with rest, intravenous infusion of electrolyte solutions or colloids and heparin.

This syndrome occurs with higher incidence in patients with polycystic ovarian disease. The risk of OHSS might be higher with use of GnRH agonists in combination with gonadotrophins than with use of gonadotrophins alone.

Cardiovascular

Effects on QT/QTc Interval

Gonadotrophin-releasing hormone receptors superagonists and antagonists have been associated with QTc prolongation in male patients receiving these drugs as long-term treatment for prostate cancer. QTc prolongation is believed to be related to the decreased plasma levels of testosterone. Triptorelin has not been studied for QTc prolongation in female subjects. Particular care should be exercised when administering Decapeptyl to patients with risk factors for Torsade de Pointes, including, but not limited to, congenital long QT syndrome, cardiac disease; history of arrhythmias; hypokalemia, hypocalcemia, and/or hypomagnesemia; bradycardia; and eating disorders.

Endocrine and Metabolism

Loss of bone mineral density

The use of GnRH agonists is likely to cause reduction in bone mineral density averaging 1% per month during six months treatment period. Every 10% reduction in bone mineral density is linked with about a two to three times increased fracture risk. In majority of women, currently available data suggest that recovery of bone loss occurs after cessation of therapy.

No specific data is available for patients with established osteoporosis or with risk factors for osteoporosis (e.g., chronic alcohol abuse smokers, long term therapy with drugs that reduce bone mineral density, e.g. anti-convulsants or corticoids, family history of osteoporosis, malnutrition, e.g. anorexia nervosa). Since reduction in bone density is likely to be detrimental in these patients, treatment with triptorelin should be considered on an individual basis and only be initiated if the benefits of treatment outweigh the risk following a very careful appraisal. Consideration should be given to additional measures to counteract loss of bone mineral density.

Rarely, treatment with GnRH agonist may reveal the presence of previously unknown gonadotroph cell pituitary adenoma. These patients may present with a pituitary apoplexy characterised by sudden headache, vomiting, visual impairment and ophthalmoplegia.

Psychiatric

Mood changes, including depression have been reported. Patients with known depression should be closely monitored during therapy.

Renal / Hepatic/Biliary/Pancreatic

No specific dose recommendations are given for subjects with renal or hepatic impairment. A clinical study indicated that the risk of accumulation of triptorelin in patients with severe or renal impairment is small.

Sensitivity/Resistance

Special care should be taken in women with signs and symptoms of active allergic conditions or known history of allergic predisposition. Treatment with DECAPEPTYL is not advised in women with severe allergic conditions.

Sexual Function/Reproduction

Ovarian Cysts

Ovarian cysts may occur during the initial phase of treatment with GnRH agonist. They are usually asymptomatic and non-functional.

Special Populations

Pregnant Women:

DECAPEPTYL is not indicated during pregnancy. Pregnancy must be excluded before initiation of fertilization treatment. Non-hormonal methods of contraception should be employed during therapy until menses resume. If a patient becomes pregnant while receiving triptorelin, therapy should be discontinued.

When triptorelin is used for fertilization treatment, there is no clinical evidence to suggest a causal connection between triptorelin and any subsequent abnormalities of oocyte development or pregnancy or outcome.

Very limited data on the use of triptorelin during pregnancy does not indicate an increased risk of congenital malformations. Based on the pharmacological effects disadvantageous influence on the pregnancy and the offspring cannot be excluded.

Pregnant rats were treated by subcutaneous administration of triptorelin at dose levels of 0.4, 2 or 10 µg/kg/day during the period of organogenesis. No signs of maternal toxicity or teratogenicity were seen. However, a substantial increase in the number of luteal bodies was seen in all treated groups. Treatment with 2 µg/kg caused a slight increase in the mean placental weight while treatment with 10 µg/kg caused a marked increase in placental weight.

Pregnant rabbits were treated by subcutaneous administration of triptorelin to at dose levels of 0.5, 5 or 50 µg/kg/day during the period of organogenesis. Pre-implantation losses were observed in rabbits treated with the highest dose. When compared with the control group, a higher incidence of resorptions and abortions were observed at 50.0 µg/kg/day dosage. Fetal survival, growth and morphological development were unaffected at dose-levels up to 50.0 µg/kg/day.

Pregnant Cynomolgus monkeys were given single intramuscular injections of 1500 µg triptorelin/animal (ca. 375 µg/kg) as a slow release formulation on day 10 and day 40 post-coitum. The treatment did not affect parturition and had no maternal or embryotoxic effects.

Nursing Women:

DECAPEPTYL is not indicated for use during lactation.

Monitoring and Laboratory Tests

Before starting therapy with DECAPEPTYL, pregnancy must be excluded.

ADVERSE REACTIONS

Adverse Drug Reaction Overview

Frequently ($\geq 2\%$) reported adverse events during the treatment with DECAPEPTYL in clinical trials, either before or during co-administration with gonadotrophins, are listed in the table below. The most frequent adverse events are headache (27%), vaginal bleeding/spotting (24%), abdominal pain (15%), injection site inflammation (12%) and nausea (10%).

Mild to severe hot flushes and hyperhidrosis may occur which do not usually require discontinuation of therapy.

At the beginning of treatment with DECAPEPTYL, the combination with gonadotrophins may result in ovarian hyperstimulation syndrome. Ovarian enlargement, dyspnoea, pelvic and/or abdominal pain may be observed (See Warnings and Precautions). Genital haemorrhage including menorrhagia and metrorrhagia may occur at the beginning of treatment with DECAPEPTYL.

Ovarian cysts have been reported to occur commonly (1%) during the initial phase of treatment with DECAPEPTYL.

During treatment with triptorelin some adverse reactions showed a general pattern of hypo-oestrogenic events related to pituitary-ovarian blockade such as sleep disorder, headache, mood alteration, vulvovaginal dryness, dyspareunia and decreased libido..

Breast pain, muscle spasms, arthralgia, weight increased, nausea, abdominal pain, abdominal discomfort, asthenia and episodes of blurred vision and visual disturbances may occur during treatment with DECAPEPTYL.

Single cases of allergic reactions, localized or generalized, have been reported after injection of DECAPEPTYL.

Frequency (> 2%) Reported Adverse Events with DECAPEPTYL in Clinical Trials			
MedDRA System Organ Class	Very common ($\geq 1/10$)	Common ($\geq 1/100$ or $< 1/10$)	Not known
Infection and Infestations		Upper respiratory tract infection, pharyngitis	
Immune system disorder			Hypersensitivity
Psychiatric Disorders			Sleep disorder, mood altered, libido decreased
Nervous system disorder	Headache	Dizziness	
Eye disorders			Visual impairment, vision blurred
Vascular disorders		Hot flushes	
Respiratory, thoracic			Dyspnoea

Frequency (> 2%) Reported Adverse Events with DECAPEPTYL in Clinical Trials			
MedDRA System Organ Class	Very common (≥ 1/10)	Common (≥ 1/100 or < 1/10)	Not known
and mediastinal disorders			
Gastrointestinal disorders	Abdominal pain, nausea	Abdominal distension, vomiting	Abdominal discomfort
Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders			Hyperhidrosis, pruritus, rash, angioedema, urticaria
Musculoskeletal and connective tissue disorders		Back pain	Muscle spasms, arthralgia
Pregnancy, puerperium and perinatal conditions		Abortion	
Reproductive system and breast disorders	Vaginal haemorrhage	Pelvic pain, ovarian hyperstimulation syndrome, dysmenorrhoea, ovarian cyst	Ovarian enlargement, menorrhagia, metrorrhagia, vulvovaginal dryness, dyspareunia, breast pain
General disorders and administration site conditions	Injection site inflammation	Injection site pain, injection site reaction, fatigue, influenza like symptoms	Asthenia, injection site erythema
Investigations			Weight increased

Clinical Trial Adverse Drug Reactions

Because clinical trials are conducted under very specific conditions the adverse reaction rates observed in the clinical trials may not reflect the rates observed in practice and should not be compared to the rates in the clinical trials of another drug. Adverse drug reaction information from clinical trials is useful for identifying drug-related adverse events and for approximating rates.

Treatment-Emergent AEs Reported by at Least 1% of the IVF/ICSI Patients Receiving DECAPEPTYL in Studies MFK/IVF/0399E and FE999906 CS003

MedDRA Preferred Term	MFK/IVF/0399E n (%)		FE999906 CS003 n (%)	
	Onset During Downregulation N=133	Onset During Stimulation N=113	Onset During Downregulation N=781	Onset During Stimulation N=731
Headache	30 (27%)	31 (27%)	29 (4%)	36 (5%)
Dizziness	5 (4%)	6 (5%)		
Dysmenorrhoea	7 (6%)	2 (2%)	20 (3%)	
Vaginal Haemorrhage		2 (2%)		176 (24%)
Pelvic Pain				43 (6%)
Leukorrhoea		2 (2%)		
Application site Disorders				
All events	16 (14%)	20 (18%)		
Inj. Site Inflammation	13 (12%)	11 (10%)		
Inj. Site Pain	5 (4%)	8 (7%)		
Inj. Site Bruising	--	3 (3%)		
Injection Site Reaction	2 (2%)	3 (3%)		
Abdominal Pain	10 (9%)	17 (15%)		
Abdominal Distension				18 (2%)
Nausea	6 (5%)	11 (10%)		20 (3%)
Vomiting	3 (3%)			
Diarrhea		2 (2%)		
Ovarian Cyst			10 (1%)	8 (1%)
Abortion Spontaneous				48 (7%)
Abortion Missed				15 (2%)
OHSS				23 (3%)
Adnexa Uteri Pain				12 (2%)
Upper Resp. Tract Infection	4 (4%)	4 (4%)		
Dyspnea	2 (2%)			
Influenza-like Symptoms		3 (3%)		
Pharyngitis		3 (3%)		
Rhinitis		2 (2%)		
Fatigue	3 (3%)	4 (4%)		
Hot Flushes	2 (2%)			
Malaise		2 (2%)		
Back Pain	3 (3%)	3 (3%)		
Flushing	4 (4%)			
Post Procedural Pain				26 (4%)
Post-operative Pain		3 (3%)		

Post-Market Adverse Drug Reactions

Since 1 January 1990, a total of 35 adverse events in concerning DECAPEPTYL have been reported. Thirty-two cases were reported in females of reproductive age, and in the remaining three cases information on either age or gender were not available. There were six serious adverse events reported: two reports of hypersensitive reactions and four cases of OHSS.

There were two cases of injection site necrosis, two cases of injection site pain (one of them associated with injection site haemorrhage) and one case of each of the following: diarrhea, injection site reaction, injection site bruising, circulatory collapse and lack of efficacy.

Exposure to DECAPEPTYL during pregnancy has been reported for a total of 35 cases. 6 case reports concern Triptorelin daily formulation, 29 concern Triptorelin depot formulations. The outcome of the 35 pregnancy cases with Triptorelin formulations were as follows: eight abortions (7 spontaneous and 1 elective), four cases of congenital anomalies (Down's syndrome, cleft palate, hypospadias and multiple anomalies), three cases of ectopic pregnancies, and one case each of hyperemesis gravidarum, non-acute porphria and pre-eclampsia. A total of 21 pregnancies were unintended pregnancies. A total of 18 healthy infants were delivered (including 1 twin pregnancy).

DRUG INTERACTIONS

Drug-Drug Interactions

Interactions of DECAPEPYL with other medicines have not been investigated for this indication. The possibility of interactions with commonly used medicinal products, including histamine liberating products, cannot be excluded.

When triptorelin is co-administered with drugs affecting pituitary secretion of gonadotrophins caution should be given and it is recommended that the patient's hormonal status should be supervised.

DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

Dosing Considerations

DECAPEPTYL is intended for subcutaneous injection once daily into the lower abdominal wall. Following the first administration, it is advised that the patient be kept under medical supervision for 30 minutes to ensure there is no allergic/pseudo-allergic reaction to the injection. Facilities for the treatment for such reactions should be immediately available. The following injections may be self-administered as long as the patient is made aware of the signs and symptoms that may indicate hypersensitivity, the consequences of such a reaction and the need for immediate medical intervention. The injection site should be varied to prevent lipoatrophy.

Treatment with DECAPEPTYL should be initiated under the supervision of a physician experienced in the treatment of infertility. Treatment can be started in the early follicular phase (day 2 or 3 of the

menstrual cycle) or in the mid-luteal phase (day 21-23 of the menstrual cycle or 5-7 days before expected start of menses). Controlled ovarian hyperstimulation with gonadotrophins should be started after approximately 2-4 weeks of DECAPEPTYL treatment. Ovarian response should be monitored clinically (including ovarian ultrasound alone or in combination with measurement of oestradiol levels) and the dose of gonadotrophins adjusted accordingly. When a suitable number of follicles have reached an appropriate size, treatment with DECAPEPTYL and gonadotrophin is stopped and a single injection of hCG is administered to induce the final follicular maturation.

If downregulation is not confirmed after 4 weeks (determined by oestradiol levels or ultrasound documentation of a shedded endometrium), discontinuation of DECAPEPTYL should be considered. The total duration of treatment is usually 4-7 weeks. When using DECAPEPTYL, luteal phase support should be provided. Luteal phase support should be given according to the reproductive medical centre's practice.

Recommended Dose and Dosage Adjustment

The usual dosage is one injection (0.1 mg) under the skin of the lower abdomen once daily. Treatment can be started on day 2 or 3 or day 21 to 23 of the menstrual cycle (or 5-7 days before expected start of menstruation). After 2 to 4 weeks other hormones are given to stimulate follicle growth. In general DECAPEPTYL treatment continues until follicles have reached a suitable size. This usually last 4-7 weeks.

Ovarian response should be monitored clinically (including ovarian ultrasound alone or preferably in combination with measurement of oestradiol levels) and the dose of gonadotrophins adjusted accordingly.

No specific dose recommendations are given for subjects with renal or hepatic impairment. A clinical study indicated that the risk of accumulation of triptorelin in patients with severe liver and renal impairment is small.

Missed Dose

If the patient misses a dose, the patient should be advised to take the missed dose if it is on the same day and **not** to double dose.

Administration

DECAPEPTYL is intended for subcutaneous injection once. Inject the entire contents of a pre-filled disposable syringe subcutaneously to the lower abdomen once daily.

OVERDOSAGE

Overdose in humans may result in a prolonged duration of action. In case of overdose, DECAPEPTYL treatment should be (temporarily) discontinued.

No adverse reaction has been reported as a consequence of overdose.

For management of a suspected drug overdose, contact your regional Poison Control Centre.

ACTION AND CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY

Mechanism of Action

Triptorelin is a synthetic decapeptide analogue of the natural gonadotrophin-releasing hormone (GnRH). GnRH is a decapeptide, which is synthesised in the hypothalamus and regulates the biosynthesis and release of the gonadotrophins LH (luteinising hormone) and FSH (follicle stimulating hormone) by the pituitary. Triptorelin gives a greater stimulation of the pituitary to secrete LH and FSH than a comparable dose of gonadorelin, and has a longer duration of action. The increase of LH and FSH levels will initially lead to an increase of serum testosterone concentrations in men or serum estrogen concentrations in women. Chronic administration of a GnRH agonist results in an inhibition of pituitary LH- and FSH-secretion. This inhibition leads to a reduction in steroidogenesis, by which the serum estradiol concentration in women and the serum testosterone concentration in men fall to within the postmenopausal or castrate range, respectively, i.e. a hypogonadotropic hypogonadal state. Plasma DHEAS (dihydroepiandrosterone sulphate) levels are not influenced. Therapeutically, this leads to a decrease in growth of testosterone-sensitive prostate tumours in men, and to reduction of endometriosis foci and estrogen-dependent uterus myomas in women. The assisted reproduction procedure of IVF requires a suppression of plasma concentration of luteinizing hormone. This suppression assists the treatment protocol and may prevent cancellation of IVF treatment due to a premature rise in the luteinizing hormone.

Pharmacodynamics

Continuous administration of triptorelin has a biphasic effect at the pituitary level. After an initial large sudden increase in LH and FSH levels (flare-up), circulating LH and FSH levels decrease due to the pituitary GnRH-receptor desensitization, with a consequent marked reduction in the gonadal production. The exact duration of action of DECAPEPTYL has not been established, but pituitary suppression is maintained for at least 6 days after stopping administration. After discontinuation of DECAPEPTYL, a further drop in circulating LH levels should be expected, with LH levels returning to baseline after approximately 2 weeks.

The DECAPEPTYL induced downregulation of the pituitary can prevent the LH surge and thereby premature ovulation and/or follicular luteinisation. The use of the downregulation with GnRH agonist reduces the cycle cancellation rate and improves the pregnancy rate in ART cycles.

Pharmacokinetics

The pharmacokinetic data suggest that after subcutaneous administration of DECAPEPTYL the systemic bioavailability of triptorelin is close to 100%. The elimination half-life of triptorelin is approximately 3-5 hours, indicating that triptorelin is eliminated within 24 hours and therefore will not be present in circulation at the time of embryo transfer. Metabolism to smaller peptides and amino acids primarily occurs in the liver and kidneys. Triptorelin is predominantly excreted in the urine.

The clinical studies indicated that the risk of accumulation of triptorelin in patients with severe liver and renal impairment is small (i.e. half-life of approximately 8 hours in these patients).

Absorption

Triptorelin is not active when given orally. Following a single dose of DECAPEPTYL 0.25 mg SC in healthy male subjects, the mean maximum plasma concentration of triptorelin was 5.68 ng/mL. Maximum plasma concentrations were reached approximately 45 minutes after SC administration. The mean terminal elimination half-life was 3.3 hours and the total clearance was 9.24 L/hour and these parameters were quite similar to those determined after IV administration.

Distribution & Metabolism:

Human distribution and metabolism after administration of DECAPEPTYL have not been studied. It is known that after injection, GnRH agonist progressively accumulate in the anterior pituitary and the main inactivating organs, the liver and kidneys. In the pituitary, GnRH agonists are inactivated by N-terminal cleavage by peptidases. In the liver and kidneys, GnRH agonists are degraded to biologically inactive C-terminal metabolites.

Following IV infusion of DECAPEPTYL 0.1 mg, disappearance of triptorelin from the plasma has two components: an initial fast component of approximately 19 minutes and a second slower component of approximately 50 minutes. Protein binding has not been investigated.

Excretion:

Triptorelin, as all other GnRH agonists, is predominantly excreted in urine. Information on the elimination of triptorelin is available in female subjects. DECAPEPTYL 0.5 mg was administered as an IV bolus to 19 female subjects. The mean half-life for terminal elimination was 5.1 hours (range: 2.5-13.81 hours). The elimination of triptorelin in urine was investigated in eight of the female subjects. Renal clearance over 24 hours was on average 25.3 mL/min (range: 5.3-45.4 mL/min). The mean percentage of the dose recovered in urine over the 24 hours was 16.7% (range: 3.4-34.6%). This indicates that approximately 17% of the dose is eliminated unchanged in the urine within 24 hours. This figure is similar to that reported for other GnRH agonists.

Special Populations and Conditions

Nursing Women

DECAPEPTYL is not indicated for use during lactation.

Pregnant women

DECAPEPTYL is not indicated for use during pregnancy.

Hepatic Insufficiency / Renal Insufficiency:

No specific dose recommendations are given for subjects with renal or hepatic impairment. A clinical study indicated that the risk of accumulation of triptorelin in patients with severe liver and renal impairment is small.

STORAGE AND STABILITY

Store in a refrigerator (2°C – 8°C). Do not freeze. Store in the original package, to protect from light.

SPECIAL HANDLING INSTRUCTIONS

No special requirements for disposal.

DOSAGE FORMS, COMPOSITION AND PACKAGING

Each pre-filled syringe of 1 mL solution for injection contains 100 micrograms triptorelin acetate equivalent to 95.6 micrograms triptorelin free base.

Each box contains 1 mL solution in a pre-filled syringe (glass) with plunger stopper (chlorobutyl rubber), plunger rod (polystyrene), integrated needle and rigid needle shield in pack sizes of 7 or 28.

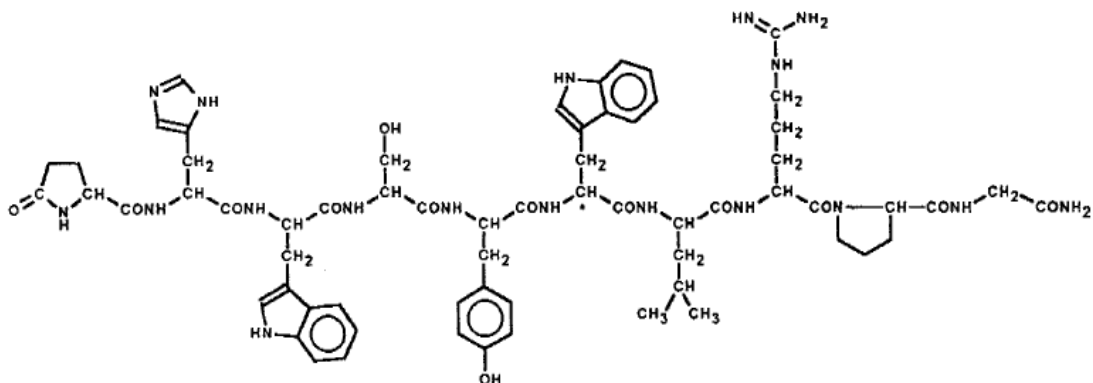
PART II: SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION

PHARMACEUTICAL INFORMATION

Drug Substance

Proper name:	Triptorelin Acetate
Chemical name:	5-Oxo-L-prolyl-L-histidyl-L-tryptophyl-L-seryl-L-tyrosyl-D-tryptophyl-L-leucyl-L-arginyl-L-prolylglycinamide, acetate salt
Abbreviated chemical name:	Pry-His-Trp-Ser-Tyr-D-Trp-Leu-Arg-Pro-Gly-NH ₂ , acetate salt
Molecular formula and molecular mass:	
Molecular Formula:	C ₆₄ H ₈₂ N ₁₈ O ₁₃ (net) C ₆₄ H ₈₂ N ₁₈ O ₁₃ C ₂ H ₄ O ₂ (Triptorelin Acetate)
Molecular Mass:	1311.5 (net) + 60.1 (acetate) = 1371.6 (Triptorelin Acetate)

Structural formula:



Physicochemical properties:	Freely soluble in acetic acid; soluble in water, 0.1 M hydrochloric acid, 0.1 M sodium hydroxide, DMF; practically insoluble in acetone and chloroform.
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CLINICAL TRIALS

Study demographics and trial design

Table 1- Summary of patient demographics for clinical trials in specific indication

Study #	Trial design	Dosage, route of administration and duration	Study subjects (n=number)	Mean age (Range)	Primary Endpoint
MFK/IVF/0399E (ART)	<p>Randomised (HP-hMG versus FSH) , open</p> <p>Stimulation with HP-hMG or rFSH, then individual adjustment</p> <p>Fixed dose of 225 IU HP Menotrophin for 5 days. Investigator adjusted until criteria was met or patient withdrawn for poor response; for a maximum of 20 days.</p>	<p>Decapeptyl 0.1 mg SC</p> <p>Decapeptyl Depot 3.75 mg (single injection)</p> <p>Other GnRH agonists</p>	<p>GnRH agonist: 781, COH: 727</p> <p>Decapeptyl 0.1 mg SC: 117 started down regulation, 113 started down regulation with Decapeptyl 0.1 mg and underwent COH</p>	18-38 years	Ongoing pregnancy rate
FE999906 CS003 (ART)	<p>Randomized (HP - hMG versus rFSH) open, assessor blind</p> <p>Stimulation with HP-hMG or rFSH (225 IU for first 5 days, then individual adjustment)</p>	Decapeptyl 0.1 mg SC	<p>Decapeptyl 0.1 mg SC: 781</p> <p>Randomised to HP-hMG or rFSH for COH: 731</p>	21-37 years	Ongoing pregnancy rate

Study results

MFK/IVF/0399E and FE999906 CS003 were large randomised, multi-centre studies comparing MENOPUR and recombinant FSH in patients (18-38 years) undergoing controlled ovarian hyperstimulation for IVF/ICIS following the long GnRH agonist protocol starting in the mid-luteal phase. In MFK/IVF/0399, several GnRH agonists were used for downregulation. A total of 781 patients started downregulation, of whom 117 were given DECAPEPTYL 0.1 mg. Adequate downregulation was established by serum estradiol < 200 pmol/l (56 pg/mL) and no ovarian cysts. In FE999906 CS003 patients (21-37 years) diagnosed with tubal or unexplained infertility, including endometriosis stage III/IV and mild male factor eligible for IVF were enrolled. In this study, 781 patients started downregulation and all received DECAPEPTYL 0.1 mg SC daily. Confirmation of downregulation prior to randomisation to menotropin or recombinant FSH was defined as menstrual bleeding and transvaginal ultrasound showing a shedded endometrium with a thickness of < 5 mm and no ovarian cysts or serum E₂ 50 pg/mL and no ovarian cysts. A total of 898 patients were exposed to DECAPEPTYL 0.1 mg SC in these two studies. The primary endpoint in MFK/IVF/0399E and FE999906 CS003 was ongoing pregnancy rates (defined as at least one viable fetus at 10-11 weeks after embryo transfer) after one cycle. In FE999906 CS003, a strict protocol and treatment approach were implemented to minimize sources of variation in the study, including harmonisation of concomitant fertility treatments, a pre-specified stimulation goal and homogeneity of other major pre- and post-randomisation interventions.

A post-hoc evaluation of treatment outcome according to duration of downregulation was performed in FE999906 CS003. The ongoing pregnancy rate by duration of treatment with DECAPTEPTYL 0.1 mg before the start of ovarian stimulation is tabulated in the table below:

<i>Ongoing pregnancy rate by duration of DECAPEPTYL 0.1 mg SC treatment before start of ovarian stimulation (FE999906 CS003)</i>			
	Duration of DECAPEPTYL 0.1 mg alone		
	< 14 days	14-20 days	≥ 21 days
Ongoing pregnancy rate	56/270 (21%)	100/385 (26%)	23/76 (30%)

In FE999906 CS003, the ongoing pregnancy rate increased with increasing duration of treatment with DECAPEPTYL 0.1 mg prior to gonadotropin administration. The ongoing pregnancy rates were 21%, 26% and 30% among patients who had taken DECAPEPTYL alone for < 14 days, 14-20 days and ≥ 21 days respectively. The data suggests that longer duration of pituitary downregulation prior to start of stimulation positively influences ongoing pregnancy rate.

The treatment outcome associated with different types of GnRH agonists can be derived from MFK/IVF00399E. Comparative data with respect to ongoing pregnancy rate are shown below:

<i>Ongoing pregnancy rate by GnRH Agonist (MFK/IVF/0399E)</i>		
	DECAPEPTYL 0.1 mg	All other GnRH agonists ¹
Ongoing pregnancy rate	24% (27/113)	22% (133/614)
¹ DECAPEPTYL depot 3.75 mg, buserelin, leuprolide, goserelin, nafarelin		

Among the 113 patients who were downregulated with DECAPEPTYL 0.1 mg, the ongoing pregnancy rate was 24% (27/113). Although this study was not designed for this investigation, the findings suggest that the ongoing pregnancy rate associated with DECAPEPTYL 0.1 mg SC daily is not different from that observed with other GnRH agonists.

<i>Ongoing pregnancy rate by GnRH Agonist (MFK/IVF/0399E)</i>			
	DECAPEPTYL 0.1 mg	DECAPEPTYL Depot 3.75 mg	Other GnRH agonists ¹
Ongoing pregnancy rate	24% (27/113)	21% (96/466)	25% (37/148)
¹ buserelin, leuprolide, goserelin, nafarelin			

The ongoing rate was 21% for patient's downregulated with DECAPEPTYL Depot 3.75 mg, and 25% for those who had used other GnRH agonists (daily or depot). The data showed that DECAPEPTYL 0.1 mg is at least as efficacious as other available GnRH.

DETAILED PHARMACOLOGY

Mechanism of action

Triptorelin is a GnRH analogue with increased receptor-binding abilities as compared to GnRH and with longer plasma half-life. Treatment with triptorelin lowers the plasma concentration of luteinizing hormone in a reversible manner

Pharmacodynamics

The superagonistic effects of triptorelin on the luteinizing hormone-release hormone receptor in the anterior pituitary was demonstrated in studies in vitro and in vivo. In vitro studies demonstrated that triptorelin displaces GnRH from the GnRH receptors and in vivo treatment with triptorelin resulted in a decrease in plasma concentrations of luteinizing hormone and follicle stimulating hormone in rats, dogs and baboon monkeys. When triptorelin treatment was terminated the blood hormone levels returned to normal.

Pharmacokinetics

There were no differences between the pharmacokinetics of triptorelin in rats, dogs and humans. Following subcutaneous administration the maximum plasma concentration of triptorelin was reached within a few hours and as the half-life of triptorelin was short, there was no accumulation of triptorelin following daily administration. The human half-life corresponded to that of animals (3-5 hours versus 2 hours in dogs and < 6 hours in rats). Results from the dog studies indicate that the subcutaneous bioavailability was approximately 100%.

The dose-adjusted values of C_{max} and AUC when administering triptorelin subcutaneously are comparable between dogs and humans.

Once-a-month intramuscular administration of microparticles containing triptorelin resulted in an initial surge in plasma concentration of triptorelin followed by declining plasma concentration during the following 30 days. Triptorelin was present in both rats and dogs 30 days after treatment indicating that the animals had been continuously exposed during that period. Data from toxicokinetics studies in dogs and a clinical study in patients established the bioavailability of triptorelin to be approximately 40% when administered intramuscularly as the depot formulation.

TOXICOLOGY

Single Dose Toxicity Studies

Single dose intraperitoneal toxicity studies using up to 200,000 µg triptorelin/kg b. wt. were performed in mice and rats. The No-Observed-Adverse-Effect-Level (NOAEL) of triptorelin was 100,000-160,000 µg/kg b. wt. in mice and 10,000 µg/kg b. wt. in rats. The lowest lethal doses were 200,000 µg/kg b. wt. for male mice (not established for females) and 100,000 µg/kg b. wt. for rats. The maximum human therapeutic dose of 100 µg/day corresponds to an approximate dose level of 1.4 µg/kg b. wt. in a 70 kg person. This corresponds to 7,000 times the NOAEL in rats and 70,000 times the NOAEL in mice. Triptorelin can thus be considered to have a very low acute toxicity with respect to its therapeutic dose.

Single Dose Toxicity Studies			
Species	Route of Administration	No-Observed-Adverse-Effect-Level	Lowest Lethal Dose
Mice	i.p.	Male: 160,000 µg/kg Female: 100,000 µg/kg	Male: 200,000 µg/kg Female: Not established
Rats	i.p.	Male: 10,000 µg/kg Female: 10,000 µg/kg	Male: 100,000 µg/kg Female: 100,000 µg/kg

Repeat-dose toxicity studies

Repeat-dose toxicity studies were performed in rats, dogs and monkeys. In an intramuscular 45-day study in rats the NOAEL was found to be 609 µg/kg b. wt./day. In the 26-week studies, the NOAEL for rats and monkeys treated subcutaneously was 200 µg/kg b. wt./day and 20 µg/kg b. wt./day for dogs treated intramuscularly.

Repeat-dose toxicity studies		
Species	Route of Treatment, Duration of Study	NOAEL (µg/kg b. wt./day)
Rats	i.m., 45 days	609
Rats	s.c., 26 weeks	200
Dogs	i.m., 26 weeks	20
Monkeys	s.c., 26 weeks	200

A maximum human therapeutic dose of 100 µg/day approximates a dosage of 1.4 µg/kg b. wt./day, is 143 times lower than the NOAEL in rats and monkeys (200 µg/kg b. wt./day). In dogs, the ratio between the NOAEL and the human therapeutic dose is 14. Women receiving triptorelin therapy for IVF are likely to be exposed for approximately 28 days. In the 26-week dog study the high dosage animals received a total of 3640 µg/kg which is 90 times more than the expected total human dosage.

Gentoxicity

Three in vitro gentoxicity studies were performed: One mutagenicity test with the bacterium *Salmonella typhimurium*, a test with mouse lymphoma L5178Y cells, and a test with Chinese hamster ovary cells. A micronucleus test in vivo was performed in mice. There were no evidence of mutagenic or clastogenic potential of triptorelin in concentrations up to 5000 µg/plate or 5000 µg/mL in the studies in vitro and 160,000 µg/kg b. wt. in the study in vivo.

Carcinogenicity

Monthly intramuscular treatment of rats with microparticles containing triptorelin at dose levels up to 6,000 µg/kg b. wt./month (214 µg/kg/b. wt) had no carcinogenic effect in mice. In the rat study, dosage of 120, 600 and 3,000 µg/kg b. wt. /month (107µg/kg/b.wt.), triptorelin resulted in a dose-related mortality in rats and dose-related proliferative lesions (adenomas) in the pituitary only. No signs of mutagenicity or clastogenicity were recorded in the genotoxicity tests, triptorelin is considered unlikely to be carcinogenic in humans.

Reproductive Toxicity Studies

Studies on reproductive toxicity were performed in rats, rabbits and monkeys. Treatment disrupted the female cycles, but after recovery there were no treatment related findings on fertility. No embryotoxic or teratogenic effects were seen.

Non-pregnant rats were treated for 60 days by subcutaneous administration of triptorelin at dose levels up to 200 µg/kg./day by daily subcutaneous injections. There was a treatment related delay in the recovery of female cycles once treatment was terminated, but after recovery and subsequent mating there were no effects on fertility or reproductive performance. Further, there were neither embryotoxic or teratotoxic effects nor effects on late prenatal and postnatal offspring development.

Pregnant rats were treated by subcutaneous administration of triptorelin at dose levels of 0.4, 2 or 10 µg/kg/day during the period of organogenesis. No signs of maternal toxicity or teratogenicity were seen. However, a substantial increase in the number of luteal bodies was seen in all treated groups. Treatment with 2 µg/kg caused a slight increase in the mean placental weight while treatment with 10 µg/kg caused a marked increase in placental weight.

Pregnant rabbits were treated by subcutaneous administration of triptorelin to at dose levels of 0.5, 5 or 50 µg/kg/day during the period of organogenesis. Pre-implantation losses were observed in rabbits treated with the highest dose. When compared with the control group, a higher incidence of resorptions and abortions were observed at 50.0 µg/kg/day dosage. Fetal survival, growth and morphological development were unaffected at dose-levels up to 50.0 µg/kg/day.

Pregnant Cynomolgus monkeys were given single intramuscular injections of 1500 µg triptorelin/animal (ca. 375 µg/kg) as a slow release formulation on day 10 and day 40 post-coitum. The treatment did not affect parturition and had no maternal or embryotoxic effects.

Local Toxicity Studies

There are no studies on the local toxicity of DECAPEPTYL. However, several studies on local toxicity were performed in rabbits using triptorelin microparticles. No signs of systemic toxicity were seen in these studies and the subcutaneous treatment with triptorelin microparticles caused only transient local reactions (edema, erythema).

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PART III: CONSUMER INFORMATION**Pr**DECAPEPTYL[®]

Triptorelin Acetate Injection 0.1 mg/mL

This leaflet is part III of a three-part "Product Monograph" published when DECAPEPTYL was approved for sale in Canada and is designed specifically for Consumers. This leaflet is a summary and will not tell you everything about < DECAPEPTYL. Contact your doctor or pharmacist if you have any questions about the drug.

ABOUT THIS MEDICATION**What the medication is used for:**

DECAPEPTYL is used in women undergoing assisted reproduction techniques (ART) for downregulation and prevention of premature luteinizing hormone (LH) surges.

What it does:

DECAPEPTYL contains triptorelin, a synthetic analogue of the natural gonadotropin releasing hormone (GnRH), which blocks GnRH action, thereby reducing premature ovulation (release of egg cells).

When it should not be used:

DECAPEPTYL should not be used if you are:

- **allergic** (hypersensitive) to triptorelin acetate or any of the other ingredients of DECAPEPTYL
- **allergic** (hypersensitive) to GnRH or any other GnRH analogue (medicines similar to DECAPEPTYL).
- **pregnant**
- **breastfeeding**

What the medicinal ingredient is:

Triptorelin acetate.

What the nonmedicinal ingredients are:

The nonmedicinal ingredients are sodium chloride, acetic acid (glacial) and water for injection.

What dosage forms it comes in:

This medicine is a clear colourless liquid in a glass syringe of 1 ml to which a needle is connected. Syringe and needle are closed with a rubber stopper and a needle shield. It is available in cartons containing 7 or 28 prefilled syringes.

WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS

DECAPEPTYL should be prescribed and managed by a doctor experienced in the treatment of infertility.

DECAPEPTYL may increase the risk of:

- Ectopic pregnancy (pregnancy outside of the womb)
- Miscarriage
- Multiple pregnancies (twins, triplets, etc.)
- Physical defects in the baby at birth (congenital malformation)
- Ovarian hyperstimulation Syndrome (OHSS)

Before you use DECAPEPTYL talk to your doctor or pharmacist if you:

- are pregnant or may be pregnant
- are breast-feeding
- have an active allergic condition or suffer easily from allergic reactions. DECAPEPTYL may cause severe allergic reactions, including anaphylactic shock and angioedema.
- have bone thinning or take any medication for bone loss or thinning
- have depression or mood changes
- have ovarian cysts

INTERACTIONS WITH THIS MEDICATION

Tell your doctor if you are taking or have recently taken, any other medicines including medicines obtained without non-prescription.

PROPER USE OF THIS MEDICATION

You should follow instructions on how to inject DECAPEPTYL given by your clinic. However, the first injection of DECAPEPTYL should be given under the supervision of your doctor.

Usual dose:

The usual dosage is one injection (0.1 mg) under the skin of your lower abdomen. Treatment can be started on day 2 or 3 or day 21 to 23 of the menstrual cycle (or 5-7 days before the expected start of menstruation). After 2 to 4 weeks other hormones will be given in order to stimulate follicle growth (egg sack growth). In general, DECAPEPTYL treatment will continue until follicles have reached a suitable size. This will last usually 4 to 7 weeks.

If enough egg sacs are present, you will be given a single injection of a medicine called human chorionic gonadotrophin (hCG) to induce ovulation (release of an egg).

Your doctor will closely monitor your progress for at least 2 weeks after you have received the hCG injection.

Monitoring and testing while taking DECAPEPTYL

While you are being treated with DECAPEPTYL, your doctor will normally arrange for you to have ultrasound scans and sometimes blood tests to monitor your response to treatment.

Overdose:

If you use more DECAPEPTYL than you should or in case of a suspected drug overdose, contact your doctor, or nurse, or regional Poison Control Centre immediately, even if there are no symptoms.

Missed Dose:

If you forget to use DECAPEPTYL, please tell your doctor or nurse. Do **not** double dose.

If you stop using DECAPEPTYL:

Do not stop using DECAPEPTYL yourself and carefully follow the instructions of your doctor. If you stop too quickly, it will diminish your changes on getting pregnant. If you have any further questions on the use of this product, ask your doctor.

SIDE EFFECTS AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT THEM

Like all medicines, DECAPEPTYL can cause side effects. . Very common side effects includes: headache, abdominal pain, vaginal bleeding/spotting, nausea, inflammation at the injection site.

Common side effects includes: infection of the upper respiratory tract, flu-symptoms, pharyngitis, dizziness, hot flushes, vomiting, swollen abdomen, back pain, abortion, pelvic pain, overstimulation of the ovaries (high levels of activity in the ovaries), ovarian cysts (in the beginning of the treatment), pain during menstruation, pain or other reaction at the injection site, and tiredness.

The following side effects may occur during treatment with DECAPEPTYL: sleep disorder, mood alterations, vulvovaginal dryness, excessive sweating, libido decreased, breast pain, muscle spasms, joint pain, weight gain, abdominal discomfort, weakness and blurred eye vision, itching, rash and swelling (beneath the skin), injection site redness, painful sexual intercourse, and irregular and prolonged periods.

If you administer DECAPEPTYL yourself, you should be aware of possible allergic reactions (itching, skin rash, fever).

Contact your doctor immediately if you get:

- Severe pain in the abdomen
- Swelling in the abdomen
- Severe nausea
- Severe vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Weight gain
- Difficulty breathing
- Decreased urination

Tell your doctor straight away, even if the symptoms develop some days after the last injection has been given. These can be signs of high levels of activity in the ovaries (OHSS) which might become severe. If these symptoms become severe, the infertility treatment should be stopped and you should receive treatment in hospital.

SERIOUS SIDE EFFECTS, HOW OFTEN THEY HAPPEN AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT THEM				
Symptom / effect		Talk with your doctor or pharmacist		Stop taking drug and call your doctor or pharmacist
		Only if severe	In all cases	
Very Common	Headache	✓		
	Vaginal Bleeding/Spotting	✓		
	Inflammation at the Injection Site	✓		
	Abdominal Pain	✓		
	Nausea	✓		
Common	Infection of the Upper Respiratory Tract	✓		
	Pharyngitis	✓		
	Hot Flushes	✓		
	Abdominal Bloating	✓		
	Abortion		✓	
	Overstimulation of ovaries		✓	
	Pain during menstruation	✓		
	Tiredness	✓		
	Flu-like symptoms	✓		
	Dizziness	✓		
	Vomiting	✓		
	Back pain	✓		
	Pelvic Pain	✓		
Ovarian cysts (in the beginning of treatment)	✓			
Injection site pain or reaction	✓			
Not Known	Abdominal discomfort	✓		
	Excessive sweating	✓		

SERIOUS SIDE EFFECTS, HOW OFTEN THEY HAPPEN AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT THEM

Symptom / effect	Talk with your doctor or pharmacist	Stop taking drug and call your doctor or
Allergic Reactions	✓	
Sleep disorder	✓	
Blurred Eye Vision	✓	
Itching	✓	
Rash	✓	
Angioedema (swelling that occurs beneath the skin)	✓	
Enlargement of ovaries	✓	
Spotting between periods	✓	
Mood alterations	✓	
Decrease libido	✓	
Shortness of breath		✓
Visual impairment	✓	
Heavy, prolonged and/or irregular periods	✓	
Vulvovaginal dryness	✓*	
Painful sexual intercourse	✓	
Weakness	✓	
Muscle spasms	✓	
Joint pain	✓	
Breast pain	✓	
Injection site redness	✓	
Weight gain	✓	

*Are considered expected side effects related to the hormone-suppressing action of DECAPEPTYL

This is not a complete list of side effects. For any unexpected effects while taking DECAPEPTYL, contact your doctor or pharmacist.

HOW TO STORE IT

DECAPEPTYL should be stored in a refrigerator (2°C – 8°C). Do not freeze. Store in original container to protect from light. Keep out of the reach and sight of children.

REPORTING SUSPECTED SIDE EFFECTS

You can report any suspected adverse reactions associated with the use of health products to the Canada Vigilance Program by one of the following 3 ways:

- Report online at www.healthcanada.gc.ca/medeffect
- Call toll-free at 1-866-234-2345
- Complete a Canada Vigilance Reporting Form and:
 - Fax toll-free to 1-866-678-6789, or
 - Mail to: **Canada Vigilance Program
Health Canada
Postal Locator 0701D
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0K9**

Postage paid labels, Canada Vigilance Reporting Form and the adverse reaction reporting guidelines are available on the MedEffect™ Canada Web site at www.healthcanada.gc.ca/medeffect.

NOTE: Should you require information related to the management of side effects, contact your health professional. The Canada Vigilance Program does not provide medical advice.

MORE INFORMATION

This document plus the full product monograph, prepared for health professionals can be found at:
<http://www.website.document>
 or by contacting the sponsor, Ferring Inc., at:
 1-800-263-4057

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Last revised: July 4, 2012